

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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*"How poor are they that
have not patience!
What wound did ever heal
but by degrees?
Thou know'st we work by wit
and not by witchcraft,
And wit depends on dilatory time."*
—Shakespeare's "Othello."

TRAINING FOSTER MOTHERS THROUGH GROUP WORK

MRS. LAURA O. GUTTMACHER, Executive Secretary, Jewish Children's Society of Baltimore

[Editor's Note:

The Jewish Children's Society of Baltimore through the development of its foster home program is providing all the care required for dependent, neglected and problem Jewish children. The institution at Levindale, originally planned for a Children's Home, is now used for old people who are dependent. The following paper was given by Mrs. Guttmacher at the Jewish Conference of Social Work in Boston last June. The experiment of having the foster mothers buy the clothing for the children, to which reference is made, has been thoroughly tested out during the recent Jewish holidays.

Instead of one boarding mother after another calling the office during the late afternoon before the holidays to say that Sadie needed a new hat or David lacked a new necktie without which he positively refused to go to synagogue, the telephone this year was silent. The office basked in peace and infinite calm. The mothers were too busy with their own preparations for the holidays to concern themselves with the Society since their children's needs were now their own responsibility.

The estimated saving on clothing costs for the first year of the new plan is approximately \$1000.]

Supplementary to the individual case work method and our psychiatric service, which offers conference between foster parents and the psychiatrist, both in foster homes and clinics, group training or education was recently given consideration by the organization I represent.

Some of the members of the Board questioned the wisdom of bringing together groups of foster mothers who might question the comparative rates of board and

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INSTITUTION NEWS

The recognition of the importance of the cottage mother in an institutional set-up preceded, by many years, any organized effort to provide adequate training for the job. The following excerpt from an address given by Mr. Charles H. Johnson at the New York State Conference of Charities and Correction in 1911 shows that the present emphasis upon the need for properly qualified cottage mothers is not a brand new idea:

"That there is no position in a cottage institution where efficiency is more important than in the cottage mother's is evident when we realize that that position is the most influential in the institution. It exceeds in possibilities and value even that of the superintendent, for the many business and other details which encumber that office make it impossible for him to come into very intimate contact with the children of the school. It exceeds in importance even that of the teacher."

NORTH CAROLINA COUNTS ITS WOMEN BOARD MEMBERS

Women may vote, make political speeches, hold office, experiment with the stock market and indulge in other lines of activity from which in the good old days they were excluded. But in many localities they still play a minor role on boards of child-caring institutions.

The North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare has just compiled the following data regarding the membership of orphanage boards in that state which are probably fairly typical of the country at large:

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of child-caring institutions in North Carolina having no women board members..... | 9 |
| Number having equal numbers of men and women..... | 1 |
| Number having a ratio of 1 woman to 4 men..... | 10 |

In some quarters the lack of ladies on boards is not considered any drawback to progress. Within the past few weeks a community chest executive has been heard to unburden his soul regarding the general inefficiency of certain women's boards with which he has to work. In view of his provocation he probably was quite restrained in his indictment.

However, all good feminists hope that just as the

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types of service which they were called upon to offer. The staff recognized the possibility of problems such as this arising, and welcomed the opportunity to meet these questions with a frank explanation of our policies, standards and requirements.

A standing committee of the Board was formed and called the Foster Home Advisory Committee, composed of both men and women. Group meetings for our foster parents were advocated. Since March 17th five meetings have been held, the groups limited to twenty-five in number. The selection was made on the basis of types and age of the children, and when possible similar social and educational standards of the foster parents. The call for the meetings was in the nature of a social function, the foster parents to meet the committee and staff at tea. The response was most gratifying. The mothers and a few fathers accepted with enthusiasm, many making special efforts to attend, such as preparing the evening meal ahead of time or getting a heavy wash out of the way early in the morning.

No set program was presented, in the hope that a method of procedure as well as subjects for discussion would evolve from within the group. An informal atmosphere pervaded the gathering; a few words of welcome and over the tea-cups a topic of interest to all was subtly introduced. The organization was at this time changing the method of supplying clothing, a clothing allowance being granted the foster mother for each child in place of the giving of a complete supply of clothing twice yearly by the organization.

The mothers spoke without restraint, frankly expressed their satisfaction or dissatisfaction, all being in accord with the idea of individual purchasing, and laid great stress on the advantages of this method, each demonstrating her point by giving personal experiences. The discussion developed the following points, which were voiced with much emphasis:

1. It means a closer relationship between foster mother and child for the foster mother to buy the clothing.
2. It gives the child less feeling of strangeness and difference.
3. It gives him a chance to learn to select his own things, which develops not only independence, but more pride in his possession.
4. It is the best way to instill thrift, neatness and care of the clothing.
5. It offers an opportunity to learn the value of a dollar, and the difficulty of making one go a long way.
6. It will be an economy for the organization, as no right thinking foster mother would buy in bulk, or at stated times, but as the need actually arises, or when sales make buying ahead practicable and economical.

The foster mothers did not hesitate to question the wisdom of our policies and case work processes. In discussing our method of supplying clothing by the granting of an allowance as against the "Big Brown Bundle Method" (this term coined by the foster mother), one foster mother said, "when those bundles came I could not hurt Jack by showing them to him, so I just put the things aside and gave him a little here and a little there as though I had been buying like I buy for my own boys, and really I can buy more economically than you people. I do not want to hurt anybody's feelings, of course, but I wait until I see a sale and then I buy for my boys. Why not the others? They are the same as my own. I think there should be no difference. I can get things at less than you people pay and better quality," and then turning to the foster mothers she said, "if any of you ladies care to know where I buy I will be glad to give you the addresses."

Another presented her problem. "I simply could not give Diana a bundle of clothes. She thinks I have full charge of her and I do everything for her. Otherwise I could not control her. She has quite a few problems, one of them being the fact that she feels terrible about her family taking relief. She is learning for the first time about the value of money."

This brought forth an animated discussion bringing out the inadvisability of deceiving Diana too completely about her situation. It seemed obvious to the majority that Diana should not be left in ignorance regarding the supervision of the organization—that the truth could be told her without injury to her present adjustment. This discussion had a far-reaching educational value.

This discussion may have provided an opportunity for a bit of self-glorification on the part of the foster parents, but why not let this be their honorarium? Even this added to their more tangible remuneration does not compensate for their fine, unselfish service.

At these meetings men and women drafted in the service of child care by the community met, became acquainted with each other, discussed their common problems with the entire group, or with the foster parents sitting next to them. This gave a sense of solidarity, emphasized the serious responsibility they have assumed, the confidence imposed in them by the organization. It elevated their service as co-equal with that of the members of the staff, and brought a realization of the fact that they are rendering a most valuable community service, which is receiving due recognition by the community. The following comments express the appreciation and interest of the foster parents in the meetings held. "It was wonderful." "I enjoyed it tremendously." "Thank you for the invitation." "It was good for me to hear what the

other ladies are doing." "I think you have a wonderful group working for you." "I enjoyed it very much—I hope we can have some more meetings and get acquainted." "I enjoyed it very much—it certainly does you good to hear about the experiences of others. I hope we can meet again." "Yes indeed I'll come again—any time at all, just ask me." "I like to hear what the others have to say." "It is a good thing for us to get together this way—the women are certainly interested and doing good work."

These group meetings prove to be a reciprocal educational process, participated in by foster parents, board members and staff, the exchange of thought and experience of value to all present. The board members' fears were completely dispelled. In all five meetings the rate of board was not once referred to. The discussions were on a high plane, spiritual values rather than material needs were stressed. With clothing, a subject so material, as the basis, the discussion led to more intangible values, such as:

1. Opportunities for developing confidence and affection between the children and the foster parents.
2. Establishing a satisfactory relationship with the parents and relatives of foster children.
3. Dangers of dependency.
4. Desirability of holding families together.
5. Necessity of securing neighborhood cooperation in planning for the children.

The group meetings held were just a subtle introduction to a more organized and definite educational program. In planning a definite program the Child Study Association has been consulted. Three courses of procedure are being considered:

- (a) To hold regular monthly meetings with speakers, following an outlined course of study.
- (b) To select groups to be led by trained child study leaders.
- (c) To encourage the foster parents to join the child study groups in their own neighborhood, such chapters having been organized in some of our public schools, and would normally include our foster parents.

The wishes of the foster parents will guide us in deciding the form our educational program will take.

The provision of educational opportunities for foster parents is as definitely the responsibility of the organization as is the education of the members of the staff. They are staff members, and as such should by educational opportunities be stimulated to translate their fine spirit into deeper understanding and greater efficiency of service.

The latest announcement of study courses by the Child Study Association of America, 221 West 57th Street, New York City, advertises a course for "governesses, mothers' helpers, or other parent substitutes."

INSTITUTION NEWS

(Continued)

parent-teacher associations are coming to regard fathers as well as mothers as parents, the time will come when earnest and conservative gentlemen board members in this country will take the initiative in giving properly qualified women wider opportunity for service on institutional boards, the assumption being that dependent children need the interest and attention of both men and women.

From a recent issue of *Charity and Children*, which is published weekly by Mills Home, Thomasville, North Carolina, the following informal reference to a mothers' aid case has been quoted: "Miss Hattie Edwards returned from the extreme eastern part of the state last week and brought a mother, whom we were aiding in the care of her children, to the Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. We hope that the treatment she receives there will send her back to her children well and strong. The Baptist Hospital has always taken our children or mothers whom we are aiding without money and without price. Relatives are caring for the children while their mother is away."

NEWS OF MEMBER AGENCIES

The Detroit Children's Aid Society has begun a complete photographic file of its work which is probably more inclusive than that of most children's agencies in the country, although many organizations take pictures of their wards upon acceptance and some take new pictures at intervals.

A clipping from a Detroit paper gives the following information:

"Pictures have been taken of all children now being supervised by the society, all boarding-home mothers and fathers, and all houses in which the children are being cared for. In addition, the children will be rephotographed at regular intervals.

"Several claims are made for the system. It will be possible to trace the physical improvement of the children, assure the children's parents that they are being raised in proper surroundings, and visually acquaint the parents with their children's progress where parents cannot afford the time and money to make frequent visits to their children. The system, the society believes, also will be a sound safeguard against mistaken identity cases."

The offices of the member agencies of the League present a wide range of architectural planning and interior decorating, but the Child Welfare Department of Alabama has the distinction of being the only member to have quarters in the White House.

To those who hail from north of the Mason and

**THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF
AMERICA, INC.**

President—CHENEY C. JONES, Boston
1st Vice-President—JACOB KEPECS, Chicago
2d Vice-President—MRS. LESSING J. ROSENWALD, Philadelphia
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Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS

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Dixon line it must be explained that it is the White House of the Confederacy. Those south of the boundary know, of course, that the White House is the Jefferson Davis home in Montgomery.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy have furnished the first floor with such pieces of the Davis furniture as they could gather together. A considerable number of the personal belongings of the Confederate president are on display. A member of the United Daughters shows visitors through the lower floor of the house and talks entertainingly about the happenings of a bygone day.

Up one flight of stairs and the scene changes. Gone is all semblance of ante-bellum days. In the rooms which once were the chambers of the Davis household is the hum of modern social machinery, set up for the protection of the children of Alabama.

The League is now engaged in the task of helping the State take stock of its achievements in this field in order that Alabama may know what more it needs to do and how best it may meet its further obligations.—M. I. A.

Some sort of prize should be allotted to the person or persons responsible for preparing the last annual report of the Commissioner of Public Welfare of Westchester County, New York. The report covers the operation of four major departments, with various types of service costing a total in 1929 of more than \$1,700,000. The pamphlet containing the report has an attractive cover—a photograph of a mother and three children. Inside the cover there are delightful photographs and a brief but highly descriptive text.

In illustration of the expenditure of more than \$700,000 by the Department of Child Welfare, there is a graph showing the daily averages of types of care given by the Department in 1929. These are as follows:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Children aided in their own homes through mothers' allowance. | 666.3 |
| In congregate institutions..... | 476.8 |
| In boarding homes under direct supervision of the department..... | 382.6 |
| In boarding homes supervised by institutions..... | 145.0 |
| In cottage institutions..... | 125.8 |

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Washington, D. C., September 28—October 2, 1930

To children's workers the high points in the meetings of the Catholic conference were those in which were discussed (1) the development of foster home care for dependent children, (2) the question of how the child-caring institutions may meet the increased demand for child care, (3) the ethical and religious problems that confront the director of a mental hygiene clinic for children, and (4) what use shall be made of the manual for child-caring institutions.

One session of the committee on families was given over to the general topic of the county as a unit in social work. William J. Norton, of the Children's Fund of Michigan, Detroit, Rev. M. E. McEvoy, Director, Catholic Social Welfare Bureau, Milwaukee, and Rev. Thomas J. O'Dwyer, Director, Catholic Welfare Bureau, Los Angeles, were the speakers.

A summary of the report of the committee on relations between Catholic agencies and community chests was given by Mr. James Fitzgerald, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Detroit. This committee, which sent questionnaires to 105 cities in the United States in which Catholic agencies participate in community chests, has assembled a mass of information which is of value to chests themselves and also to both Catholic and non-Catholic agencies. The report brings together facts about policies and relationships which give a bird's-eye view of the way in which this modern device for social financing functions.

On the whole, the Catholic agencies in the 105 cities included in the inquiry reported favorably on chest participation. Several speakers from the floor urged more activity on the part of Catholic laymen in the actual labor required to put over a successful community chest and pointed out that service as well as money was important in the development of the work of a chest.

The round table on study of case accounting conducted by Miss Mary L. Gibbons, Supervisor, Division of Families, Catholic Charities of New York, went on record as approving cooperation with statistical studies being carried on by the Russell Sage Foundation and the United States Children's Bureau, which has recently taken over the statistical project initiated by the University of Chicago.

It was also decided that some plan should be devised whereby statistical data for Catholic agencies might be compiled under Catholic auspices partly as a means of educating agencies as to the importance of such data as well as for the purpose of having some scientific measure of Catholic social effort.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore, to which Washington belongs, was the first English-speaking See in the New World. Historically, therefore, Washington provides a fitting background for a conference of Catholic Charities. The Catholic University and the School of Social Service are both located in Washington. The Rt. Rev. James H. Ryan, Honorary President, and Rev. Dr. John O'Grady, the Executive Secretary, live there, which facts make the national capital a logical selection for the conference meeting place. However, Washington appeared to be too surfeited with conventions and gatherings of one kind or another to reach out and claim the conference for its own as New Orleans did last year.

Neither did the atmosphere of the Willard Hotel have the same welcoming warmth to it as that of the Roosevelt in New Orleans. To the Willard, as to the capital, a convention is just another convention to be served with detached politeness.

The Roosevelt, on the other hand, gave the impression of having donned its best bib and tucker and sat up nights in order to be ready to extend a fitting welcome to the clergy, the religious and the laity coming to discuss their common problems within its walls.

Thus, while the subject matter presented at the various sessions of the Sixteenth National Conference of Catholic Charities was of high order, the speakers outstanding figures in the field of social welfare and the weather above reproach, the ensemble seemed less perfect to at least one visitor than that achieved last year in the shadow of St. Louis Cathedral.—M. I. A.

THE CHURCH CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

A Church Conference of Social Work organized under the auspices of the Commission of the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of Churches held its first meeting during the National Conference of Social Work at Boston in June.

Round table conferences were held for various groups including workers from church orphanages, homes and hospitals, deaconesses, social service workers for churches and church councils, in which were represented the following religious bodies and agencies: the American Friends Service Committee; Baptist Convention (Northern); Church of Christ; Disciples; Council of Women for Home Missions; Department of Social Relations, American Unitarian Association; Department of Social Relations of the Congregational Churches; General Conference of the Religious Society of Friends of Philadelphia and Vicinity; Methodist Episcopal Church; Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.; United Presbyterian Church of North America; Reformed Church in the U. S.; Universalist General Convention;

National Council of Federated Church Women; and many Councils of Churches.

One of the most important meetings was that devoted to the general topic of child dependency resulting from industrial problems at which Miss Myrtle Louise Evans, Executive Secretary of the Methodist Orphans' Home Association, St. Louis, was the principal speaker. Miss Evans said, in part:

"The states at large, especially rural counties, are very much remiss in accepting responsibility for their dependents. Our experience with county courts has been most baffling and in many instances discouraging. County officials were amazed at our presumption when, as a church institution, we asked partial maintenance toward the care of their dependent children, but we have kept on asking just the same. It may seem presumptuous indeed to suggest that the courts need enlightenment, but as a matter of fact this is one of the greatest opportunities for service to the community which confronts church institutions for children, especially where they operate on a state-wide basis.

"We believe that the child-caring organization is in a strategic position to assist in any plans to remedy the social problems which arise out of our present industrial situation. The denominational home in particular, since its service usually reaches out into wider areas, has a much better point of vantage than the organization which serves a small, restricted territory, and we must not fail to take advantage of this opportunity."

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Philadelphia, published in September, 1930, should be in the library of every children's agency and institution. Briefly but succinctly, progress in children's work during the post-war period is summed up from the approach of children's case work, psychology, psychiatry, pediatrics and social justice.

The enclosure to League members this month is a reprint of the article contributed to the Annals by Mr. Carstens, entitled "The National Agency and Child Welfare Standards."

Dorothy, the nine-year-old daughter of a social worker, found a stray kitten at the back door several mornings in succession. She fed it for two or three days and then apparently decided to find a permanent home for it. She began her home-finding efforts in her own block but was not successful. Then she canvassed her school mates, but definite decisions could not be reached until the parents of interested prospects had been consulted. In the interim Dorothy's father had a conversation with her in which he endeavored to determine how she felt about taking the kitten into their own home, if a satisfactory placement could not be made elsewhere.

"Well," Dorothy remarked to her father after serious thought, "I don't think we ought to take a kitten without knowing about its background."

INTELLIGENCE TESTS PUT TO THE PROOF

Under the above heading the *New York Times* has recently carried two articles by Dr. Goodwin Watson, Associate Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, on the subject of intelligence tests:

After twenty years of acquaintance with the term mental testing, there is still a lot of fuzzy-mindedness in this country about I.Q.'s.

At the risk of being accused of editing the BULLETIN with scissors and paste in order to have more time to bask in the Alabama sunshine or perhaps to participate in Alabama politics, the following clarifying excerpts from Dr. Watson's article are quoted:

"Some testmakers defined their objective in terms of 'the ability to learn.' Others defined intelligence as the ability to adjust adequately in new situations. Still others thought of intelligence as a capacity for abstraction, an ability to grasp relationships. All of them, however, desired to get at something which could not be imparted to the student, something independent of formal schooling. We are now able to appraise fairly well the extent to which the tests do what the testmakers wanted them to do.

"Consider, for example, the story of Grace (age 11) and Lulu (age 8) as reported by Dr. Florence Teagarden, of the University of Pittsburgh. Father, mother and grandmother had died while the girls were babies. The visitor found them living in an old hut with the grandfather. The furniture consisted of store boxes. Dirt was everywhere. On this particular day all three meals consisted of bread dipped in bacon fat. The girls had received some outer garments from the humane society, but had no underclothing. They had gone to school very little. The children shrank away from the visitor like frightened animals. Their speech was a peculiar dialect.

"Stanford-Binet tests given to Grace showed that she did as well as an average 8-year-old. Since an 8-year-old would be only 73 per cent as old as Grace actually was, her I.Q. (intelligence quotient) was said to be 73. Lulu passed tests appropriate for a 6-year-old; that is, a child 77 per cent as old as Lulu was at the time. That gave Lulu an I.Q. of 77.

"The girls were transferred to a private institution, with many of the advantages of the best private homes.

"Year after year intelligence tests had been repeated, with monotonously similar results. Each child gained as she grew older, but at such a rate that her ability remained about that of a child three-quarters of her own age. While average children gained a year of mental growth Grace and Lulu gained regularly about three-quarters of a year. Here are the figures (I.Q.'s) for the several years:

Grace—73, 75, 75, 72, 78.

Lulu—77, 75, 72, 71, 73.

"Apparently, even the first intelligence test, given under extremely unfavorable circumstances, might have been taken at its face value.

"Grace and Lulu, of course, are only two among thousands of children who have been retested. Dr.

Hildreth, of the Lincoln School of New York City, gave 1,112 pairs of tests to 441 children over a period of several years. All of the children developed considerably in intellect. But when compared with one another, the bright children remained bright, the slower children remained slower.

"More convincing studies have been made by Dr. F. N. Freeman, of Chicago, and Dr. Barbara Stoddard Burks, of Stanford University. These findings are based upon children placed in foster homes and followed up some years later. In both investigations the conclusion was that the type of home in which the child was placed would have some effect upon his intelligence rating. That difference was not very great, perhaps 3 to 10 points of I.Q. if the child were placed in a much better environment. The younger the child when placed in the home the more likely it was to influence his I.Q. Yet the difference between the best and worst homes in town would never be great enough to transform a stupid child into a bright child.

"The children studied by Dr. Burks, however, were placed in foster homes very shortly after birth. They grew up to show the usual variety of bright and dull children. But, in this case, there was no relation between the intelligence of foster father or foster mother and the intelligence of the child. Bright foster parents might, or equally well might not, have bright children.

"It seems fairly clear that what parents do for the intelligence of their children is very largely completed at the time of conception. Later changes in environment will make relatively little difference. That does not imply at all that the training given by parents and schools is unimportant. Home training may not have much influence on the I.Q., but it is likely to make all the difference between the cultured gentleman and the boor, the saint and the sinner, the happy and melancholic.

"Once outside the classroom the significance of an intelligence test score becomes much more doubtful. Tests in other fields have shown that an individual varies in his abilities. Some things he does well. Others he does poorly. The truth of the matter is that individual intelligence test scores do not predict any other known ability of the individual with an accuracy that is 50 per cent better than chance. Though we know in general that in the following abilities 1,000 children of high intelligence would excel on the average 1,000 children of low intelligence, we might about as well base our guess as to a particular child's achievement in them on a lottery number, or the length of his big toe, as on his I.Q. Personal happiness; popularity with classmates; speed and accuracy of simple learning tasks; mechanical ability; ability to discriminate between good and bad music; ability to sing or play a musical instrument; ability to recognize artistic merit; ability to draw or paint; handwriting speed or quality; cooperativeness, helpfulness; physique, health, athletic ability; persistence; self-control; breadth and variety of play interests; cheerfulness; dependability; speed of decision; self-confidence; ability to keep out of insane asylum during later years, and ability to keep out of prison during later years.

"The list is not exhaustive. The point, however, may be clear. Whatever may be true about people in

large numbers, individual I.Q.'s cannot be taken too seriously. In the past many school systems (including that of the New York City schools at present) employed psychologists who did little but give intelligence tests. The opposite tendency is exemplified by the new 'Psychological Consultation Centre' at Speyer Hall of Teachers College, which is centering especial attention upon discovering the specific abilities possessed by each individual."

WHAT MOVIE IS SUITABLE?

Increasingly parents and others responsible for the care of children are asking this question. One of the finest services provided by associations of parents and teachers is the regular publication of lists of the movies which are most suitable for children of certain ages. Unless a parent introduces his child to films of certain merit, he may anticipate the time when the child will go on his own to see films which are too stimulating, too morbid in their influence or otherwise objectionable.

For those who do not have a parents and teachers association bulletin to guide them, helpful suggestions may be secured from *The Parents' Magazine* on the page entitled "Good Movies and Bad." This gives a brief critical paragraph on each film reviewed, with separate recommendations as to its desirability for adults, for youths and for children. The films criticised are sufficiently up-to-date to give impressions on the most recent releases. A motion picture card file is sold by this magazine which allows readers to keep an alphabetical list of film reviews by clipping each review and pasting it on a card. Information will be supplied to organizations interested in such files, which will help them to use the files to greatest advantage. *The Parents' Magazine* may be addressed at 255 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

Sometimes those who operate institutions for children are embarrassed by the donation of some entertainment which is objectionable. It may be in the form of a wholesale party and public dinner for "orphans" given by some newspaper, club or a philanthropist, or it may be the donation of tickets to a movie. Whether the children go out to movies or whether films are brought to the institution, the management will find it well worth while to keep informed of those productions which will provide reasonably wholesome entertainment. If there is ready recourse to reliable reviews of films the institution executive may be able to persuade those providing movie entertainments that a certain film is objectionable and that one of several others would be preferable. Only with the exercise of greater discrimination in the selection of movies can we expect to influence those producers who so frequently provide pictures which are vicious, so that they will improve the quality of their products.

ENCLOSURE

THE NATIONAL AGENCY AND CHILD WELFARE.—Article by C. C. Carstens, Director, Child Welfare League of America, Inc. Reprinted from *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Philadelphia, September, 1930.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

CALIFORNIA—Children's Protective Association, Los Angeles. New address: 2824 Hyans Street.

MINNESOTA—Children's Protective Society of Hennepin County, Minneapolis. Charles E. Dow, successor to Charles L. Burt, resigned.

PENNSYLVANIA—House of the Holy Child, Spring House P. O. Ethel M. Dixon, Superintendent, succeeds Edith W. Dallas.

"FIVE MILLION SLAVES"

Under the above title an editorial article in the October Midmonthly Survey gives information which we are quoting in detail.

"We Americans have been accustomed to think that our Emancipation Proclamation freed the last slaves in the world. It was something of a shock, therefore, to be reminded by Lady Simon on her recent visit to this country that there are today some five million chattel slaves in the world—men, women, and children who are bought and sold like cattle, whose personal lives are wholly at the mercy of their masters, and who have no status as citizens. China, Abyssinia, Arabia are the centers of slavery in the modern world, and in Abyssinia slave raids as well as slave trading still occur. Lady Simon spoke as a representative of the Anti-Slavery Society, pleading for American cooperation with this British organization, or for the establishment of a similar association in this country to work for the world-wide abolition of chattel slavery, and of peonage and forced labor as well.

"To many who heard her speak Lady Simon was even more stirring than her message. Her devotion to her cause, her unabashed concern for human liberty, brought to American audiences a note of honest idealism that has not often been heard of late in our public meetings. After all our solemn study of ourselves, our passionate quest for self-expression, our thinly disguised propaganda and self-seeking, what this friend of the slaves had to say came to us like a breeze from clearer heights. In this day of 'rackets' and high-powered selling, it is customary (and with reason) to scoff at 'the crusading technique.' But if through one of the streets of the machine age Raynold de Chatillon should ride again, shield bright and pennant flying, is it not likely that the sight would mean a lifting of the heart, a fresh awareness that there is truth and beauty, too, in devotion and self-forgetfulness and that old phrase, *noblesse oblige!*"

**INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON
ILLEGITIMACY
BULLETIN**

President: MISS MAUD MORLOCK, Cleveland, Ohio
Vice-President: MISS SABINA MARSHALL, Cleveland, Ohio
Secretary: MISS GRACE REDDING, Cleveland, Ohio
Treasurer: LAWRENCE C. COLE, Cleveland, Ohio

THE UNMARRIED FAMILY

GRACE REDDING, Secretary, Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy

(Some of the details of the study of The Unmarried Family briefly reported in the June Bulletin.)

The Cleveland Conference on Illegitimacy, composed of delegates from 55 organizations—maternity homes, child care, family service, protective and health agencies, courts, hospitals, settlements, newspapers and schools—has been stressing for several years the study of problems by small groups of members. For the year 1929-30 it was suggested that a study be made of current practice through an analysis of case records, and that the problems of illegitimacy be considered in relation to all the members of the immediate group concerned, namely, The Unmarried Family.

Four study groups were formed under the general chairmanship of Miss Maud Morlock, each one to consider a distinct phase of the problem, as follows:

The Unmarried Mother Sixteen Years of Age and Under.

The Married Woman with a Child Born Out of Wedlock.

The Unmarried Mother with More Than One Child
The Father of a Child Born Out of Wedlock.

A schedule was formulated and a total of 87 closed records studied. From the tabulation of the schedules and summary, both made by Miss Elinor Nims, the following was prepared:

While no conclusions could be drawn from this small number of cases, the study has had value in challenging the Conference, especially the 22 members of the reading committees, to the need for more factual material, and has raised many questions as to current practice; for example:

Are social agencies justified in approaching the father of a child born out of wedlock on any but a sound case work basis?

Should not cases of illegitimacy be referred to a case work agency early in the woman's pregnancy?

What attitude should the school take toward the girl who has had a child and who returns to school? Should her unmarried parenthood be revealed to the school authorities if unknown by them?

Illegitimacy is a community problem. The sources of reference were—19 social agencies, 4 churches, 3

schools, 3 courts, 23 individuals and 2 newspapers. With such a multiplicity of agencies representing a variety of philosophies and methods of approach, there is unquestioned need of some method of exchanging ideas, of correlating and raising the standards of practice throughout the community. The Conference on Illegitimacy is one such means of creating mutual confidence and understanding.

The analysis of the reasons for closing cases raised several questions, among them—When may a case of illegitimacy be considered adjusted? What part does the heavy case load per worker have in the effectiveness of the work done by all the social agencies involved?

In 16 instances the mother and baby returned to the parental home—the very environment in which the illegitimacy problem arose. With little or no supervision the cases were closed. The paternal home thus becomes a critical point of attack, not only because of the part it has played in developing the girl's attitude and behavior, but also because of the fact that this same home is being used as an agency of rehabilitation.

Contrary to the findings frequently made, but 3 of the 87 children were given in adoption. At the time the cases were closed, two other children had been placed. From this it may be concluded that in this community adoption is being used as a method of treatment in a limited way. On the other hand, if absorption into a home situation which has already failed is the alternative, social agencies are challenged to do more intensive case work, not only with the mother, but also with her family group.

Great interest was focused on the unmarried father. Social agencies have given less consideration to him than to the mother of the child. The father is considered primarily in the light of his financial responsibility for the child and, to a lesser extent, for the mother. In two instances where the same case work approach was used with the father as with the mother, it resulted in a plan made jointly, under the leadership of the case worker. These plans took into account the father's willingness and ability to support, his background, the circumstances under which he entered into intimate relationship with the mother of the child and his attitude toward the child. Although the ultimate plans for such a family group vary with the factors involved, any plan made through the participation of those primarily concerned has in it the possibility of social stability.

This study again emphasizes the need for more knowledge of this problem. This knowledge can be secured only by continued thorough case work, and study of records to determine the elements in the problem as a whole, and the general methods of treatment.